



NAVACORD®

Accident Benefits

Frequently Asked Questions

April 2026

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What are Statutory Accident Benefits (SABS)?

These refer to a set of no-fault insurance benefits in Ontario. These benefits are included in every automobile insurance policy that shows a premium charged for Accident Benefits. The purpose of SABS is to provide prompt financial and medical support to individuals injured in motor vehicle accidents—regardless of who was at fault—helping cover costs not fully addressed by public healthcare (like OHIP) and assisting with recovery, income loss, and other related expenses.

What is changing?

Starting July 1, 2026, Ontario is making changes that will give customers more options and control over their coverage by making some currently mandatory accident benefits optional. Some of these changes include:

1. *Definition of covered persons:*

The new definition of covered persons for optional accident benefits applies to all policies on July 1, 2026, irrespective of the policy renewal date. For optional accident benefits, the definition of covered persons will be:

- a. The named insured;
- b. The spouse of the named insured;
- c. The dependents of the named insured and of the named insured's spouse; and
- d. The persons specified as drivers of the insured automobile

2. *First Payor for Medical and Rehabilitation:*

Insurers will be the first payor for medical and rehabilitation expenses (excluding medication) as of July 1, 2026 if a policyholder with a supplementary health insurance plan under which payments are reasonably available to the insured becomes injured in an auto accident. Policyholders will be able to tap into or preserve their supplementary health insurance plan for other life events.

3. *Major Change in what coverages are mandatory versus which are optional.*

The following table outlines the status of current Accident Benefits and what the status will be after July 1, 2026:

Coverage	Description	Current Status	Status as of July 1, 2026
Medical, rehabilitation, and attendant care benefits	Supports for injury treatment, therapy, medications (with some exceptions), devices, and daily living assistance	Mandatory with minimum limits of \$65,000 for non-catastrophic Impairments and \$1,000,000 for catastrophic impairment. Options to increase non-catastrophic limits to \$130,000 or \$1,000,000 and catastrophic limits to \$2,000,000	Mandatory and will remain part of your policy. Options will vary from insurance company to insurance company

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3. Change of which coverages are mandatory and which are optional (Cont.):

The following table outlines the status of current Accident Benefits and what the status will be after July 1, 2026:

Coverage	Description	Current Status	Status as of July 1, 2026
Income Replacement Benefits	Weekly payments from your auto insurance that help replace part of your lost earnings if you are unable to work due to injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident	Mandatory coverage covering 70% of your weekly gross income up to a maximum of \$400 per week. You can <i>increase</i> the weekly maximum – for example to \$600, \$800, or \$1,000 per week	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company
Non-earner benefit	A weekly payment provided to an insured person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was injured in an automobile accident and Cannot carry on a normal life as a result of that injury, and Does not qualify for Income Replacement Benefits or <i>Caregiver Benefits</i> 	Mandatory coverage. \$185 per week. with a waiting period after the accident of 4 weeks before payments start	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company
Caregiver benefits	Benefit that can help if you can no longer provide unpaid care to someone you lived with because you suffer a catastrophic injury from a motor vehicle collision	Mandatory coverage. The benefit pays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$250 per week for the first person in need of care, and An additional \$50 per week for each additional dependent who needs care. Option to include non-catastrophic injuries	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company
Lost educational expenses	Helps compensate an injured person for certain expenses tied to their education when auto accident-related injuries force them to stop their studies	Mandatory coverage. Pays up to \$15,000 for lost educational expenses including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition for the current term or year, Books and course materials, Required equipment for your program, and Room and board 	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company

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3. Change of which coverages are mandatory and which are optional (Cont.):

The following table outlines the status of current Accident Benefits and what the status will be after July 1, 2026:

Coverage	Description	Current Status	Status as of July 1, 2026
Death and funeral benefits	Provides financial support to certain family members and cover funeral costs if an insured person dies as a direct result of injuries from a motor vehicle accident	<p>Mandatory coverage. Covers: Lump-sum death benefit to various eligible family members.</p> <p>Under standard coverage, the amounts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000 to the <i>spouse</i> of the deceased insured person, • \$10,000 to <i>each dependent</i> of the deceased <p>With optional amounts to increase to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50,000 to the spouse, • \$20,000 to each dependent <p>Funeral Expense Benefit Covers reasonable funeral and related expenses.</p> <p>Under standard coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$6,000 can be paid for funeral expenses incurred as a result of the insured person's death from the accident. <p>Option to increase to \$8,000 for funeral expenses.</p>	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company
Visitor expenses	Reimburses certain travel-related costs that close family members incur when they visit you while you are being treated or recovering from injuries caused by a motor vehicle accident	<p>Mandatory coverage. Pays for reasonable and necessary expenses that eligible people incur include things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation costs (e.g., fuel, mileage, airfare) • Lodging or accommodation if an overnight stay is needed • Meals or other travel-related expenses incurred while visiting you 	Optional coverage. As there is no limit there are no other options.

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3. Change of which coverages are mandatory and which are optional (Cont.):

The following table outlines the status of current Accident Benefits and what the status will be after July 1, 2026:

Coverage	Description	Current Status	Status as of July 1, 2026
Damage to personal items (Clothing, Glasses, Hearing Aids and Other Devices)	Replaces or repairs certain personal items that were <i>lost or damaged</i> as a direct result of a motor vehicle accident	Mandatory coverage with no options	Optional coverage. As there is no limit there are no other options.
Housekeeping and home maintenance for catastrophic impairments	Provides financial support for extra help with household chores if you suffer a catastrophic impairment due to an automobile accident which leaves you unable to do the housekeeping and home maintenance tasks you normally handled before the accident	Mandatory coverage. Pays up to \$100 per week for these additional housekeeping and home maintenance costs. Option to include non-catastrophic injuries.	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company
Dependent care	Covers reasonable and necessary additional expenses you incur for caring for your <i>dependents</i> if you are injured in a motor vehicle accident and can't provide that care yourself. It is distinct from the Caregiver Benefit as it is especially aimed at helping cover childcare or similar expenses while you recover.	Optional coverage. Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$75 per week for the first dependent, and • \$25 per week for each additional dependent, • To a maximum of \$150 per week total. 	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company
Indexation	Adjusts Income Replacement Benefits, Non-earner Benefits, and Medical/Rehabilitation/Attendant Care balances, each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (All Items), as published by Statistics Canada.	Optional coverage	Optional coverage with options varying from insurance company to insurance company

Can an insurer decline to offer any of the optional accident benefit coverages?

No. Under the SABS regulation, insurers must offer these optional accident benefits. The Regulation also provides that insurers are prohibited from considering an applicant's request to purchase an optional benefit when deciding whether to issue, renew or terminate an auto contract or to provide or continue any coverage or endorsement.

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Who Will Not Be Covered?

After July 1, 2026, other individuals (e.g., uninsured passengers, pedestrians) will not have access to optional benefits under a vehicle's auto insurance policy if they are injured in an auto accident. To have access to optional accident benefits, individuals that fall outside of this list must have their own auto insurance policy under which they have purchased optional benefits.

What if I have a private or workplace disability benefit plan?

Clients may have comparable or better coverage through your workplace or private disability plan. We ask that you verify your existing coverages before opting out of optional income replacement benefits under your auto insurance policy. Property and Casualty Brokers and Agents need to operate within the scope of their license therefore we would be unable to review your current disability policy.

What if I have a driver's license but do not currently own a vehicle? How can I access optional accident benefit coverages after July 1, 2026?

An option is to purchase an Ontario Policy Form 2 otherwise known as the Ontario Driver's Policy. This is one of the standard approved forms for automobile insurance in Ontario and is distinct from the more common Ontario Automobile Policy 1 otherwise known as the Owner's Policy. This policy provides essential coverages but is specifically designed for situations involving **non-owned automobiles** (i.e., vehicles the insured does not own, such as borrowed, rented, or leased cars). It includes:

- **Section 1: Third Party Liability** – Covers the insured's legal liability for bodily injury, death, or property damage caused by their use or operation of a non-owned automobile (e.g., if you're at fault while driving someone else's car).
- **Section 2: Accident Benefits** – Provides no-fault benefits (per the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule) for injuries from accidents involving a non-owned automobile. This includes mandatory medical/rehab/attendant care, with optional benefits (post-July 1, 2026 changes) available if selected. Coverage extends to the named insured, spouse, dependents, and in some cases, others not covered elsewhere.
- **Section 3/4: Uninsured Automobile Coverage and Liability for Damage to Non-Owned Automobiles** – Protects against uninsured drivers and damage to the non-owned vehicle you're driving
- **General Provisions, Definitions, Exclusions, and Statutory Conditions** – Standard clauses applying across sections.

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This policy is useful for individuals who do not own a vehicle but still drive regularly and need their own standalone motor vehicle liability policy to comply with Ontario law (Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act).

Do these changes only apply to Personal Lines Auto or ALL Auto including commercial lines / fleet?

The changes apply to all automobile insurance contracts that carry SABS coverage.

How do these changes affect my renewal?

Policies active before July 1, 2026, will renew with the same coverage limits unless you choose to change them. Customers can opt out of optional coverages at any time after July 1, 2026, irrespective of their policy renewal date.

What is the Ontario Policy Change Form (OPCF) 47R (Optional accident benefits coverage & priority of payment)?

When optional accident benefits are purchased, insurers are required to issue an approved endorsement. The Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario has created the OPCF47R for industry use. The key benefits of the OPCF47R include:

- Portability of optional benefits – Ensures benefits can move with the insured.
- Definition of covered persons – Specifies who the optional benefits apply to.
- Greater consumer transparency – Lists both purchased coverages and other available options.

The OPCF47R endorsement must be added to every renewing or newly issued policy where these benefits are purchased.

What should I do to ensure my employees have adequate protection in case of injuries suffered in an automobile accident after July 1, 2026?

Work with your Account Manager to ensure that company vehicles are insured with adequate optional accident benefits on the policy. If employees use their own vehicles for work, verify that they carry sufficient coverage on their policy and are listed as drivers on their own policy.

Employees – especially those with dependents or no workplace disability coverage – should understand that failing to opt-in could leave them without critical financial support after a crash.

(Cont.)

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What should I do to ensure my employees have adequate protection in case of injuries suffered in an automobile accident after July 1, 2026? (Cont.)

Since many optional SABS benefits (like income replacement) may cover lost earnings after a crash, employers should:

- Understand how these interact with group benefits, short-term disability, and long-term disability plans.
- Communicate clearly to employees how different programs can work together.

Review the employee benefits being provided by you, especially if the company does not have WSIB coverage. If you do not currently provide Extended Healthcare or Disability coverage to your employees, we would be more than happy to refer you to someone at Navacord who can discuss benefits plans for your employees. **Life Insurance or Individuals, Families and Business.**

Who should I speak to for further information and guidance?

You should contact your current Account Manager for further information as well as the options available from your insurance company.



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199 Bay Street, Suite 4100, Commerce Court West, Toronto, ON M5L 1L5